

depositing by physical vapor deposition at least one layer comprising a material selected from the group consisting of refractory metal, refractory metal alloy, refractory metal compound, and refractory metal alloy compound on at least a portion of said electroplated layer, wherein said refractory metal compound is selected from the group consisting of nitrides, carbides, carbonitrides, oxides and reaction products of said refractory metal, oxygen and nitrogen, and wherein said refractory metal alloy compound is selected from the group consisting of nitrides, carbides, carbonitrides, oxides and reaction products of said refractory metal alloy, oxygen and nitrogen.

#### REMARKS

Claim 1 has been amended and is presented for reconsideration. Reconsideration of the rejection of claims 2, 4, 5, 7-24, 26-36 and 55-63 is respectfully requested.

Claims 1, 2, 4, 5, 7-9, 21-24, 26-28 and 55-63 stand rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. patent No. 5,413,874 (Moysan '874) in view of European Patent Application No. 0 486 711 A1 (EP '711).

This rejection is respectfully traversed.

As stated in the Background of the Invention:

"... any water spots or any other surface defects such as nickel or chrome stains from or caused by the electroplating process show through and indeed are accentuated by the thin vapor deposited coating ...

It is thus currently necessary to thoroughly inspect, clean and dry each article as it comes out of the electroplating bath. One conventional way of cleaning the electroplated articles is to run the articles through a water based cleaning